

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In amended Figs. 3 and 4, the reference numerals for the outer hub, the inner hub, and the cage have been changed to - - 2', 3', and 4' - -, respectively. In amended Fig. 5, the reference numeral for the cage has been changed to - - 4" - -. In amended Figs. 6 and 7, the reference numerals for the outer hub, the inner hub, and the cage have been changed to - - 2", 3", and 4" - -, respectively. The Specification has been amended in view of the amendments to the drawings. The Specification has also been amended to include headings, and to amend the Abstract as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

As stated above, Applicants elect Species III shown in Figs. 5-7, with claims 1-3, 5 and 8-11 readable thereon, and claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 generic, and respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10, as well as claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9 and 11 read on elected Species III shown on Figs. 5-7. Moreover, it is believed that any search for the Species embodied in Figs. 5-7 would necessarily include a search of the Species embodied in the remaining Figs. 1-4. Thus,

simultaneous search for all Species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the Species. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected Species.

For all of these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn, and that action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

The drawings were objected to because reference numerals 1-9 were each used to identify features in Figs. 1 and 2, and then

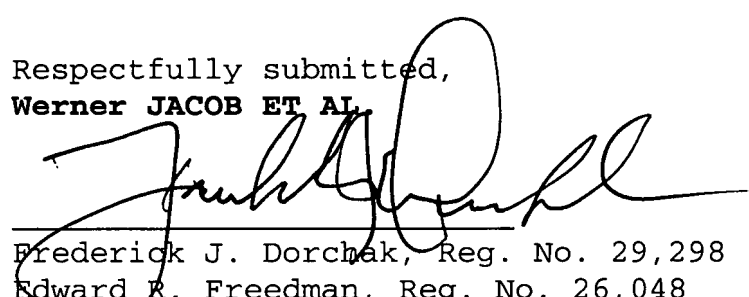
used to identify modifications of the features in Figs. 3 and 4 and Figs. 5-7. In response, Applicants have amended Figs. 3-4 to label the outer hub, the inner hub, and the cage with reference numerals 2', 3', and 4', respectively, and have amended Figs. 5-7 to label the outer hub, the inner hub, and the cage with reference numerals 2", 3", and 4", respectively. The disclosure has also been amended to refer to the new reference numerals.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments to the Drawings and Specification overcome the objections by the Examiner, and Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the Drawings be withdrawn.

The Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to as beginning with a phrase that can be implied, and the Specification was objected to as failing to include section headings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to provide such section headings, and have amended the Abstract to conform with U.S. Practice. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments overcome the Examiner's objections to the Specification and the Abstract, and Applicants respectfully request that the objections on this basis be withdrawn as well.

In summary, the Figs. 3-7, the Specification, and the Abstract have been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.


Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 16, 2007.



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APPENDIX